



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

of punctuation. Thus, periods have been inserted at the end of sentences. The diarist's practice is frequently to omit them; to follow this exactly would make the text unnecessarily hard to read. The title used is that formulated by Moses Austin himself. The journal is a small paper book of thirty-eight leaves, about seven inches long and four and a half inches wide.

GEORGE P. GARRISON.

#### THE JOURNAL.

On the 8. day of Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1796 in the Evening I left Austin Ville on Hors Back takeing Jos. Bell as an assistant and a Mule to Pack my baggage and that night went to Mr. James Campbells who on the morn-ing of the 9 started with me for Kentuckey. Nothing of note took place from Mr Campbells to Cap<sup>t</sup> Craggs where we arrived on the 11th at Eve furnishing ourselves with Blankets &c at Abington as we pass.d. the Morning of the 12 I left Cap<sup>t</sup> Cragg, in Companey with a Mr Wills from Richmond bound to Nashvill in the State of Tennessee. that night I arriv.d at the Block Hous, so Call.d from being some years past us.d as such but at this time in the hands of Colo Anderson, at whose Hous, it was Expected good accomedations, could be had, more so in Consi-quence of his being a friend of Mr Campbells. however, it as with great Trouble, that he admited us under his Roof, or would allow us any thing for our Horses and Mules. Colo Andersons is 36 Miles from Cap' Craggs, which, I left by Day light, takeing the road Through Powells Valle. at this place I parted with Mr Wills who took the road for Cumberland Which fork.d at this place. the road being Bad and the weather uncommonly Cold, I found it was with hard Traveling that we reach.d the foot of Wallons ridge that Night. from Andersons, to Benedict Yancy's is 34 Miles and an uncommon Mount<sup>r</sup> road. Fifteen Miles from the Block Hous is Lynch mountain and the river of the same name. I the same Day pass.d a number of Mountains and ridges, the most con-siderable of which are Copper Creek Powells and Wallons, as also several large Creeks and Powells River. Mr Yancys is the enterence into Powells Valley. a Wagon road has lately been Open.d into, and Down the Valley, and Notwithstanding great panes and Expence, the passage is so bad that at maney of the mountains the waggoners are oblig.d to lock all the wheels and make fast a Trunk of Tree Forty feet long to the back of the waggon to prevent it from Pressing on the Horses. in this manner many waggons have pass.d on to Kentuckey. It was late in the Evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> that I arriv.d at the Hous of this Mr Yancys, and the badness of the weather, had made Me Determin, not to go any Further, being then 8 OClock and snowing fast, however I found it was not so Easy a matter to bring the old Man and Woman to think as I did; For when I demand.d or rather request.d leave to stay, they absolutely refus.d me, saying, that we could go to a Hous six miles Down the Val-

ley. Finding moderate words would not answer I plainly told Mr Yancy that I should not go any further, and that stay I would. Old Mrs Yancy had much to say about the liberties some Men take, and I replied by observing the Humanity of Others, and so end.d our dispute. our Horse was strip.d and some Corn and Fodder obtain.d. we soon Found ways and means to make the rough ways smooth, and takeing out our Provision Bag made a good supper, after which placeing our Blanketts on the Floor with our feet to the fire I sleep.d well. The 14 we start.d from Mr Yancys and the Day being bad with snow and rain, we stop.d at a Mr Ewings five miles Below Lee Court Hous and Ten from Mr Yancys. at Mr Ewing we reced the '*welcome*' of Mr and Mrs Ewing at whos Hous we staid, untill the morning of the 15, when after being furnish.d with Every thing we wanted and a Good Piece of Beef to take with us, we took leave of Mr and Mrs Ewing and family and that Night about Sun down Ariv.d at Cumberland Mountain. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile before you pass this mountain you come into the road from Hawkins Courtt Hous and Knox Vill, which is said to be the Best road. after passing the Mountain which we did this Night, we stop.d a[t] Mrs. Davis's who keeps Tavern Down the mountain, and met with very good accomedations. Powells Vally has lately been made a County by the name of Lee, takeing all the Country from Washington County to the Kentucky line. The Court Hous is About Thirty miles up the Vally from the pass of Cumberland mountain at which place is a Small Town of Six or Ten Houses and Two Stores. Powells Vally is, I am inform.d about six miles Broad and 60 in length. its good land but so Inclose.d with Mount" that it will be always Difficult to Enter with waggons. When the Vally becomes well improv.d it will be an Agreeable place but at this time its thinly settled and Small farms. On the 16<sup>th</sup> by Day light our Horses being ready we took our leave of Mrs Davis, who I must take the liberty to say may be Justly call Cap<sup>a</sup> Molly of Cumberland Mountain, for she Fully Commands this passage to the New World. She soon took the freedom to tell me she was a Come by chance her mother she knew little of and her Father less. as to herself she said pleasure was the onely thing she had in View ; and that She had her Ideas of life and its injoyments &c &c. a Mr Hay from Knox Ville Joined us this Day. the weather still continued Cold and the road which had been much broak up was now hard frozen. however we arrived by Dark at Ballingers Tavern 37 miles from Cumberland Mount". at this place I meet with a number of Gentl<sup>m</sup> from Kentucky and a Doc<sup>t</sup> Rosse from the Illinois with whome I had much conversation respecting that Country. our Horses suffer.d this Night being Oblig.d to make them fast to a Tree and feed them on Cane, but the Accomodations for ourselves was good Considering the Newness of the place. the 17 leaving Ballingers we Travel.d that Day over an unpleasant road passing several large waters and Cumberland River. we came at Night to a small Hutt on Little Rock Castle 30 miles from Richland or Ballingers. at this Place our Accomodations was abominable bad. the hous was about 12 feet square and the Night

which was distressingly Cold oblig'd all that was stop'd at the Place to take shelter in the Hutt, in all women and Children includ'd 17 in Number,—nor can a more filthy place be immagin'd. this Night our Horses Suffer'd much. a few Oats was all that the place afford'd. after takeing a supper from our Provision Bagg we took some rest on our Blanketts and at Day light, started on our Journey and in the Evening arriv'd at the Crab Orchard<sup>1</sup> and took up our quarters at a Mr Davis, 23 Miles from Rock Castle, makeing in all 90 miles from Cumberland Mountain to the Crab Orchard.

The Crab Orchard, has long been a place of Note and it being the grand Gateway into Kentucky I expected to have found a Hous of Entertainment at which a Traveller could have recruited himself, but I was disappointed. the accomedations at Davis.s is bad and nothing agreeable in or about the place. The Country from Cumberland *Mountn* to Langfords which is Ten Miles before you come to the Crab Orchard, and which is know [n] by the Wilderness,<sup>2</sup> is a Disagreeable broken Mount<sup>3</sup> Country but some good lands, and will be in time Sufficiently settled to furnish Travellers, but can Never be a desireable Country. Its now settled with 18 families, who are but a remove from Indians in their manners or moreals. Much Work with many Bridgs may make a good road, but its not to be expected for many years altho the road has been lately opend for waggons and much work don on it much more must be don to make it Tolerable. on the 16 between Cumberland Mount<sup>o</sup> and Ballangers I pass'd Capt<sup>t</sup> Sparks with a Companey of United States Troops from Fort Detroit on his way to Knox Ville About 100 in all. the Troops made a good apperence, was well Cloth'd. and good-looking men. I cannot omitt Noticeing the many Distress'd families I pass'd in the Wilderness nor can any thing be more distressing to a man of feeling than to see woman and Children in the Month of Decemb<sup>t</sup> Travelling a Wilderness Through Ice and Snow passing large rivers and Creeks with out Shoe or Stocking, and barely as maney rags as covers their Nakedness, with out money or provisions except what the Wilderness affords, the Situation of such can better be Imagined then discribed. to say they are poor is but faintly express'g there Situation,<sup>3</sup>—life *What is it, Or What can it give*, to make Compensation for such accumulated Misery. Ask these Pilgrims what they expect when they git to Kentucky the Answer is Land. have you any. No, but I expect I can git it. have you any thing to pay for land, No. did you Ever see the Country. No but Every Body says its good land. can any thing be more Absurd than the Conduct of man, here is hundreds Travelling hundreds of Miles, they Know not for what Nor Whither, except its to Kentucky, passing land almost as

<sup>1</sup> Roosevelt, *Winning of the West*, I. 311 and note. The account to which reference is made follows the MS. autobiography of Rev. William Hickman in the library of Colonel Reuben T. Durrett, of Louisville, Ky.

<sup>2</sup> Austin was travelling by the "Wilderness Road." *Winning of the West*, I. 313-314, and note 1, p. 314. The road is shown on the map at the end of Vol. I.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Winning of the West*, I. 314-316.

good and easy obtain.d, the Proprietors of which would gladly give on any terms, but it will not do its not Kentuckey its not the Promis.d land its not the goodly inheratence the Land of Milk and Honey. and when arriv.d at this Heaven in Idea what do they find? a goodly land I will allow but to them forbiden Land. exausted and worn down with distress and disappointment they are at last Oblig.d to become hewers of wood and Drawers of water.

19 I arrived in companey with Mr James Campbell at Mr C. Campbells 12 Miles from the Crab Orchard who reced us Kindly, and at whose Hous I stade untill the 20th the Weather beeing so Cold as to render it almost impossible to Travel. Mr Hay part [ed] with me this Day takeing the road for Lexington and Jos. Bell went to a little Town Call.d Stanford.

21 I took leave of Mr C. Campbell and famely to whome I am much indebted for there politeness and about Twelve arriv.d at the Town of Stanford where I meet with a Number of the former inhabitants of New River and that Night stay.d with a Mr Nath<sup>a</sup> Forbus. The Town of Stan-ford is the County Town of Lincorn and it beeing Court Day I had an opportunity of seeing a Number of Gentl<sup>m</sup> and Isaac Shelby late Gov<sup>r</sup> to whome I had letters. little can be said in favour of the Town of Stanford. it Contins about 20 Hous of Loggs excep a Brick and Stone Hous, has Three small Stores a Tan Yard and Four Taverns. the Land in and about the Town is good and some large improvements.

22. I arriv.d about 12 O Clock at the seet of Isaac Shelby, Esq<sup>r</sup> with whome I dined and from whome I recip.d letters to M<sup>r</sup> Argotee at Frank-ford and that night reach.d the Town of Danvill. Gov<sup>r</sup> Shelby has a large and well improvd farm a plain but neet Stone Hous and is said to be a man of Great Welth. the Town of Danvill is 12 Miles from Stanford but 20 the way I went. I stay.d at a Mr Smyths Tavern and on the Morning I left Danvill for Harrodsburg, 13 Miles from Danvill at which place I arriv.d on the same Day at 12 OClock. Danvill is a well laid out place and the streets are Broad crossing each Other at right angles Situated on a level spot of ground, but badly Built Contaning about 36 Houses the most of which are loggs. the lands Near Danvill are good and when well improv.d will be an agreeable Country. I found the 23[d] so Cold that I Concluded to stay the remainder of the Day a[t] Harrodsburg and on the 24. leaveing Harrodsburg I arriv.d at Frankford that Evening being 31 Miles. Harrodsburg is a small place said to be the oldest place in the State is Elevated something above the surrounding Country and there beeing a large quantity of Land Clear.d appeard more pleasant then any place I see in the State. the Houses are about 20 in Number and Mostly of Stone. the Court Hous is of Stone and a good building.<sup>1</sup> Harrodsburg is the County Town of Murcer. the Country from Danvill to Frankford is level but Not good Land as I expected. Frankford is the Seet of Gov-ernment and is Situated on the Kentuckey River which at this place is about 160 Yards over. the Town stands on a flat spott of ground and has

<sup>1</sup>Cf. *Winning of the West*, I. 311, following Hickman's autobiography.

some good Buildings. the State Hous is a good Convenient Hous but not Elegant the Other Publick Buildings are not worth Notice. the Town Contains about 60 Houses in all Eight of which are Brick and Stone. Whicker keeps the best Tavern and the accomedations are good.

The situation of Frankford cannot be call.d pleaseing it beeing incircled with high nobs and Hills at Every point. its the County Town of Frankling. Mr. Argotee beeing from home I had to wate his return and on the 27 I finish.d my business with him takeing letters to Monsieur Zeno Trudeau Commandant of St. Louis in the province of Louisiana. passing the Kentuckey river on the Iice I took the road for Louis Ville at which place I arriv.d on the Evening of the 28. the Night of the 27 I lodg.d at a small Town called Shelby which place I shall always remember, from the uncommon behavior of the LandLady Mrs. C——. the Town of Shelby is small and like all the Towns in Kentuckey badly built. about 20 Houses and Two Stores. the Land from Shelby to the Ohio is not of the Best nor is the Country as well Settled as I expect.d. in short it may be call.d a Wilderness. From Frankford to the Town of LouisVille is 52 Mile and the Country uncommonly level. The Ohio is a Noble River and its almost impossible to bring yourself to beleave You are so far from the *Atlantic*. Louis Ville is the County Town of Jefferson is situated immediately on Banks of the Ohio. the situation is beautiful and I think this place may in time be of Consequence altho its now an inconsiderable V[i]llage. Louis Ville has about 30 Houses but there is not an Elegant Hous in the place. the Court Hous is of Stone and built with some Taste. at this place I see a Number of Indians from the Nations over the Ohio, Piankishas Delawares and Wyatenas. Notwithstanding Louis Ville is the landing place of all Boats that Come Down the Ohio and Bound to any place below the Falls in consequence of which there is a great resort of Companey yit there is Not a Tavern in the place that deserves a better name than that of Grog Shop. Louis Ville by nature is beautifull but the handy work of Man has insted of improving destroy.d the works of Nature and made it a detestable place.<sup>1</sup>

29 I pass.d the Ohio this Day, below the Falls which are about Two Miles in lingth but not bad. The Ohio beeing frozen I could have pass.d on the Ice but there beeing an opening about half a Crost the river at the Common pass way I made half my passag on the Ice and the remander in a Boat and that Night put up a<sup>t</sup> Clerks Ville on the N West Side of the river ready to take the Wildern<sup>ss</sup> the Next Morning.

Clerks Ville<sup>2</sup> is a poor plac<sup>ce</sup> hardly Deserving Notice consisting of Six Cabbins and One Logg Hous with a Stone chimney. its 3 Miles from Louis Ville. up the Ohio from Clerks Ville is a small Fort Command.d by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Webster with 45 or 50 men.

30<sup>th</sup> at Day light I made myself ready to take the Trace to Post St. Vincennes, but unfortunate for me a Very heavy snow fell in the night

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Winning of the West*, II. 39-40, note, summarized from "Papers relating to Louisville, Ky.," in the Durrett MSS. ; and III. 16.

<sup>2</sup> For Clarksville, see this REVIEW, II. 691.—ED.

which had so obscured the Trace that not a foot Step could be seen. thus Situated I was at a stand, but beeing informed that the Trees had been mark.d, by keeping of which I could finde the way, with this information I left the Ohio and that Evening arriv.d safe at Blue river 30 Miles from Clerks Ville on the banks of which I found an Indian Camp of Wyandots fifteen in Number with an Old Cheef. I Staid the Night and was Treat.d with great Politeness and friendship. the Cheef ordered a Squah to Dress my supper, which she did in a short time nor do I remember to have ever eaten a better Dish of Veneson and *Bare* Stake. at Day light he ordered his Squah to do the same, and after takeing my Brakefast I took leave of the friendly Wyandots presenting to the Two Squahs that had attend me each a String of Beeds.

31<sup>th</sup> I arriv.d at Night at a Camp said to be 36 Miles from Blue river which had been made use of the Night before by a Companey of men which I pass.d in the Day from St Vincennes bound to Kentuckey. this Day I come up and meet with a number of Hunting Indians all of which were friendly. the Snow beeing deep and the weather Cold I did not sleep so well as I could have wished and by times I started on my road determined that Night to reach Vincennes but after a hard Days ride I late at Night arriv.d at Mr Harvis 5 miles from Vincennes where I found good quarters.

The Country from the Ohio to Vincennes is in general good and will afford Valuable settlement and is Well water.d. the Onely River at which a Traveller is subject to meet with Delay or difficulty in passing, is Blue river which in the spring is commonly high. At White River there is a good Boat at which you may pass at any time or on the Ice which was the way I pass.d all the waters from the Ohio to Vincennes. the severity of the winter had mad[e] all the rivers passable on the Ice. White River is a delightfull River and navigable for Boats Most parts of the Year 150 mils up. its about 260 Yards wide where I pass.d it and I was told the Currint is moderate and the Navegation as easy as any River in the Western World. this River may be Fored in summer At the Delaware Village about a Mile and half above the road but its attended with great Danger the whole of the River from side to side beeing a quick sand, and I was told by a Number of Gentl.<sup>m</sup> that sundry Horses was lost last Summer in attempting the forde by those unacquainted with It. the Indian Village Just mention.d I was inform.d contained about 20 famelies which have return.d to it with in the last Year after an absence of Ten Years.

1<sup>st</sup> January, 1797 on Monday I arriv.d at the Town of St Vincennes which I found to be much larger then I had an Idea of, the situation is quite Charming nor can fancy paint a more desireable Spot.

From Harvies to Vincennes five Miles is an Open Champaign Country and Extremely fertile interspersed with Island of Trees and plains or prairies quite to the banks of the Wabash. Two Miles from the Town are Two Mounts which over look the Country for some Miles as also the Town and river. these Mounts arrise in the middle of a large plain

and are said to be Indian burial Grounds. however I cannot suppose this to be True unless the World has been in beeing much longer than some pretend to say and the destruction of the Human family greater than we have any Account of in this part of the world. however I was told by a Gentl<sup>a</sup> in Vincennes that he had taken Human bones from Out of the mounts and that he discover.d many more in the Ground. I suppose each of the mounts to be at least half a mile in Circumference and from the common level of the plain to the summit, 60 feet. they are now well sett with grass and have every appearance of the works of nature and not of art. Vincennes may Contain 200 Houses in all but they are small and generaly One story and badly finished. the Streets are Narrow and Verry irregular. at this time not more then  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Houses are inhabited.<sup>1</sup> the inhabitance since the Treaty Made by General *Wayn*<sup>2</sup> are gon onto there farms. this place is said to have been settled in or a bout the Year 1726<sup>3</sup> and has undergone many Changes since that time but was always a place of Considerable Tread and wealth untill General Clark took possession of it in the Year 1778 for the United States, from which time untill within the last 18 month it has been on the decline.<sup>4</sup> Vincennes is settled with French from the Towns on the Mississipi and Canada and after the Town came into the hand of the United States many of the Most respectable and Wealthy famelies left the place and Either went to Detroit or the Spanish side of the Mississipi,<sup>5</sup> but the Natural advantage of the place and the beauty of the Country will if the Indians are peaceable soon make Vincennes a place of Consequence. the Garrison at this place is Command.d by Cap<sup>t</sup> *Parsters*.<sup>6</sup> it Consists of 50 men. the fort or Citadel Commands the Town and River Wabash, in which is four six pounders. the Wabash may be number.d among the beauties of Nature. its about 350 Yards wide at the Town. the banks are not high and the prairies on each side extend as far as the Eey can Command Forming a Landscape when viewed from the *Mounts* back of the Town equal to any thing of the Kinde I Ever have seen. The God of this Comely land has been lavish in finishing his Work, for notwithstanding that the Sovereign hand of Winter had extended its Terrific Influence over all the face of Creation Yit inexpressable charmes could be discover.d which the severity of Winter could not change. The Navigation from the Ohio to Vincennes is said to be 130 Miles safe and easey, upwards from Vincennes 150 miles for Canoes, and the waters of the river in the Spring may be

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Winning of the West*, I. 34, following State Department MSS., No. 150, Vol. III., p. 89.

<sup>2</sup> The Treaty of Greenville. See *American State Papers*, V. 562-563.

<sup>3</sup> Rev. Edmond J. P. Schmitt says in the letter quoted in note 3 on page 530: "The town was founded in 1727."

<sup>4</sup> *Winning of the West*, I. 35-36, note 2, relative to the memorial of François Carboneaux, State Department MSS., No. 30, p. 453; and to the letter of Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton, Haldimand MSS. (in the Canadian archives at Ottawa), Series B, Vol. 123, p. 53.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. *Winning of the West*, II. 176; III. 47, 49, 241.

<sup>6</sup> Probably Captain Thomas Pasteur.—ED.

Navigated within a few miles of the Miami. the lands on this River are said to be equal to any in the World forming large and extensive plains and groves of Timber and must at some time not long distant forme a settlement equal to any in the United States. the West bank of the Wabash is said to overflow every spring, but the East bank on which the Town stands is something higher and is not subject to overflow.

The Aborigines which are settled on the Wabash, near Vincennes, Are much reduced and some nations intirely extinct. the *Piankishas* had a Town within One Mile of St Vincennes but its now destroyd and there Number reduced to about 120 men. they have not any Town or fix.d place of residence but wander about from place to place always calling Vincinnces ther Home. the *Wyatonas*<sup>1</sup> are said to be 150 men and are settled up the Wabash 200 miles from Vincennces. the *Shakis*<sup>2</sup> I could git no information about nor is there such a Nation Now Known. If any of them are in beeing they are united With some other Nation.

I was directed to go to Colo *Smalls* for quarters, to which Place I whent and found good accomedations. the Colo and his Lady was from home on a party of pleasure and beeing informed of a Mr Henry who was in Town on his way to the Illinois, I got a Gentle<sup>m</sup> to direct me where he could be found, and Calling at the Hous of Mon<sup>s</sup> Dubois, I found Mr Henry at Table with a Number of French Gentle<sup>m</sup>. I was unfortunate in not having letters to any Gentl<sup>m</sup> in Vincennes however the imbarismnt I felt on this Account was soon remov.d by the Politeness of Mon<sup>s</sup> Dubois who without ceremoney took me to the Table and placed me beside the *Roman* Priest. at Mon<sup>s</sup> Dubois, I met with a Number of Americans and Notwithstanding I was a stranger to all Yet I found Myself very agreeable situated. after spending an agreeable afternoon, I return.d to Colo Smalls, and that Evening went to a Ball, where I was Introduced to several Gentle<sup>m</sup>. Maj<sup>r</sup> Vanderburg a man of some note requested Mr Henry and myself to take Brakfast with him which we did the Next morning. I receivd much Politeness from Colo Small, Doc<sup>t</sup> Tisdale, and Mon<sup>s</sup> Dubois, to all of whome I am much indebted as well as maj<sup>r</sup> Vanderburg. Colo Smalls Keeps the onely Tavern in Vincennes at which good accomedations can be had. There is a Catholic Church at Vincennes, but the building is not of sufficient note to be Known by Strangers unless informed, but to whome this Church is Dedicated I did not learn.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Weas or Ouiatanons. *American State Papers*, V. 130.

<sup>2</sup> Sacs.

<sup>3</sup> "Flaget [afterward, in 1808, appointed first bishop of Bardstown, to which diocese Indiana then belonged] kam am 21. December 1792 nach Vincennes. Hier fand er die Kirche, eine baufällige Blockhütte, in einem gänzlich vernachlässigten Zustande. Er begab sich alsbald an die Arbeit der Wiederherstellung derselben und bereitete besonders den aus Brettern nothdürftig zusammengefügten Altar zur würdigen Feier des Weihnachtsfestes vor, in so weit es seine eigenen dürftigen Mittel ihm gestatteten, denselben herzustellen." *Geschichte der Deutschen S. Marien Gemeinde von New Albany, Indiana*, by Rev. Edmond J. P. Schmitt. This was the church mentioned by Austin. In a letter to the writer Father Schmitt adds: "The church was dedicated to St. Francis Xavier. The pastor at the time Austin passed through, was Rev. John Francis Rivet. The records of the church reach back to 1749."

The 3 and 4 of Jan<sup>y</sup> I remain.d at Vincennies in which time I was made acquainted with Cap<sup>t</sup> Parsters and famely from whome I recei.d many civilities. on the 2<sup>th</sup> a very heavy snow fell which made the road not onely disagreeable but dangerous, however Mr Henry as well as myself came to a resolution, to undertake the Journey, in Opisition to the advice of the good People of Vincennces, who said such a Journey with such a Deblt of snow and such severe weather, had not been undertaken by any man, that the Open Country we had to pass was such as to render it Impossible to Keep the road with so large a body of Snow on the Ground. Notwithstanding all that was said, I was fully determin.d to go forward nor Could I think of returning with out Executing the plan I had in Vew. after giting a French man who said he could conduct us safe and providing ourselves with such things as we thought we should want, on the morning of the 5 Jan<sup>y</sup> we left Vincennes in the following Order—  
Mon<sup>s</sup> Basidon our guide in front, Jos. Bell and a Pack.d mule form.d the Center, and M<sup>r</sup> Henry and myself Brought up the rear. The appearence of Mon<sup>s</sup> Basidon was some what singular which I shall take the liberty to describe. he was mounted on a small Hors, his saddle was of the French make with a Horn before and behinde. his bridle was made of a Buffalo Cord. under his saddle he had Two Blanketts which almost covered the Body of the Hors. at the fore part of the saddle was an Old Pistol a long scalping Knife and a Tin cup, at the back Horn of the saddle a large Tin Kittle and Bell with a small Bagg of Provisions and on the saddle a Bagg of Corn. Basidon I suppose to be four feet six Inches. his Dress was a short Blue Jack Coat, Coating over Halls, and mockisons over which he had a Blankett Cappoa with an Indian Blankett made fast round his wast, with a Buffalo String, Indian like. on his head was a red flannel Cap over which he had a Friars Bonnet made of Brown Coating at the Top of which was a  $\times$  extending about 3 Inch above the Bonnet like a Weather Cock. round his neck was a Buffalo String to which was made fast a p<sup>r</sup> of mitts made of Buffalo hide and to finish the Dress he had on his feet a p<sup>r</sup> Buffalo Socks which came half up to his Knees. Thus Equip.d and thus arrang.d Our Cavalcade Moved forward and passing the Wabash on the Ice we arriv.d at and pass.d the River Ambro<sup>1</sup> that Night Where we took up Camp.

The Ambro is about 100 Yards over is fordable at all times in the Year except in the Spring when the back water from the Wabash renders it impassible some times for many weeks. this River at the place we cross.d it is six miles from Vincennes. It forms a Junction with the Wabash some few Miles below the Town. its Not Navigable but would be so for many Miles If the loggs was removd.

The great Deblt of snow made some Trouble in fixing our Camp. however after removeing the Snow and makeing a large fire, I found notwithstanding the Severity of the Night I rested well. on the 6<sup>th</sup> by Daylight we made ready to take the road and that Night came to and pass.d

<sup>1</sup> Embarras.

Fox Creek, this Night was pinching Cold and as we advanced to the N West the Snow became deeper. we Keep.d good fires and as we had a plenty of provisions we thought it well to improve our time in eating as well as Travelling nor did I finde our situation so disagreeable as I expected. the 7 at Night we pass.d the little Wabash and took up Camp about Ten miles over the river. the little Wabash may be 90 Yards wide. its a Bad River to pass in the Spring has high Banks and Strong Currant and occatisions<sup>1</sup> great Delay to passengers. its not Navegable except at high water and then Not over Hundred Miles. Where the Road passes it, Its said to be 60 Miles from Vincennes.—the 8<sup>th</sup> we still continued our Journey and this Day at Twelve O Clock Mon<sup>s</sup> Basidon said we was half way to Kaskaskia, but here our good luck left us. the Day was Windy and in passing a plain of 30 Miles we lost the road. the Snow was so Drift.d, It was impossible to finde it. however we continued forwards expecting we Should regain it when we came to the wood on the Other side plain. here we was also disappointed for after some time Spent in looking for the road we was Oblig.d to give it up and take up for the Night. the 9[th] a Counsel was held as to our situation and it was agreed that as Mon<sup>s</sup> Basidon was Confident he could finde the way to Kaskaskia without the road that we Should go forward, but some dispute arrose as to the point of Compas we should take, I was for S West, Basidon for N West, but as it was supposed *Basidon* was the best Judge, he was allow.d to govern. we had other Troubles which now became distressing. our provisions which we suppos.d would have taken us to Kaskaskia was expended on the 8<sup>th</sup> nor had we a Gun in Companey, So that all hopes of a Supply was cut of. however we continued to push forward from Daylight untill Dark, with some hopes we should finde the road. on the morning of the 11 we came to a large river which mon<sup>s</sup> Basidon said was the Kaskaskia. we pass.d this River on the Ice as we had don all the other Rivers and altering our direction to W S West, we continued on untill 13<sup>th</sup>, Not Yet comeing to Either a road or Settlement, and nothing to live on. Our Situation became Truly distressing. this night Prov.d more disagreeable than any we had experienced. the weather continued Cold and the Snow Near 3 feet deep. about Sun Down it began to rain freezing as it fell. about 12 O Clock it turned to snow, and by Morning we found the snow such a Debth that it was almost impossible to move. our Horses which suffer.d as much as ourselves was also doubley distress.d. the bushes was frost.d in such a manner that they could git nothing. our situation was unpleasant. however, I was confident that by steering West we must strike the Mississipi—but when, was the question. The Frenchman on whome we most depended sadly lamented his situation and Jos. Bell was much distress.d. I did not like the state of things. however I did not think our state so Deplorable. we had Horses on which we could live, If Nothing better could be don. I was determin.d first to make use of the Mule, but this was a Step I did not think would be Necessery for

<sup>1</sup>Occasions.

I thought we should that Day either make the settlement or the Mississipi and the reason I thought so, was that the Country which had been from the Wabash to Within about Ten miles a Continuation of prairies and lofty groves of Timber became broken and Barren forming small ridges. the Creeks also ran West all of which caus'd me to think that the Mississipi was at hand. Nor was I disappointed for we did not Travel a Mile before we came in Sight of a small Village. None but those who have been in a similar Condition can have an Idea of our feelings. had the Everlasting Trumpet Sounded our Eternal happiness I do not think It would have been more Agreeable.<sup>1</sup>

This place prov'd to be Whitesides Station fourteen Miles from the Mississipi and Sixty from the Town of *Kaskaskia* so that we must have first Cross'd the Kaskaskia river 150 miles from the Town or road as we had been Travelling down that River 4 Day when we Arriv'd at Whitesides Station. had mon<sup>s</sup> Basidon Taken a W. S. West Course, insted of W N West We should its most likely have made the Town of *Kaskaskia* five Days sooner than we made Whitesides Station.

Notwithstanding the Unpleasant Situation I was in, I could not but be charmed with the Country I had pass'd. such Extensive plains, such Beautifull Groves of Timber, so Charming and Dilightfully Diversifid, are not to be found, perhaps in the Known World. the Onely Rivers between the Wabash and Kaskaskia is those before mention'd, but a great number of Creeks. the distence from Vincennes to the Mississipi is said to be 180 Miles and the best land'd Country I have seen. At Whiteside Station We was soon furnished with all We wanted for ourselves and Horses. I found Mr. Whitesides to be in possion of some information respecting the Country which he gave me freely. he also informed me that he had Sundry letters from a M<sup>r</sup> Evens 2500 Miles up the *Missouri* from which I took the following Extract

Missouri Fort Charles<sup>2</sup>  
Maha<sup>3</sup> Nation Jan<sup>r</sup> 15 1795

S<sup>r</sup> I arriv'd at this Nation 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1794 and Agreeable to promes will give you an acc<sup>t</sup> of this Country so fare as its in my Power.

From this Place to St Louis as the River Meanders is supposed to be 2500 Miles the Land on the River for 20 Miles back is Level and fine formeing large plains or Natural Meadows. the Missouri Makes the most Unaccountable windings and Twistings ever seen takeing Turns of 20 Miles and then returning with in a Bow shott to the same place forming Islands and Landscape more beautifull then can be discribed. I shall now give you a Short account of the Natives of this Country. there General Character is Niether the best nor worst in the world. the *Mahas* as well as all the Nations I have Seen are fare Superiour to the Indians East

<sup>1</sup> Clark's army was lost during the march against Kaskaskia, in 1778, in the same country, though somewhat further south.

<sup>2</sup> Coues, *History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, I. 74.

<sup>3</sup> Omaha.

of the Missisipi in these several points, say Mildness of temper attachment to the White people, tending towards Civilisation and Integrity. This Nation is Governed by a King in his Government absolute. he is belov.d by his people as well as all the Nations Near him and as much fear.d they make it a matter of Life Not to see any of white people Injured or hurt. the King wishes for information and discovers a Great taste for music and painting, in Short his Character is such and that of the Nation that I am ashAMD of the White people when I reflect on the superior qualities of many of these people in a State of Nature to the *Whites* who injoy all advantages. the King is a Man upwards of six feet and well made. his manners are polite and easy Commands Great respect, he has fix.d Laws, which are pointedly Obay.d

There is several Volcano,s on this River Three of which are out and two now burning<sup>1</sup> of which I shall give you a full acc't at some other time, as also the Quaking land through which a River runs and is Constantly Boiling up Sand. I have also seen a small Girl Taken from the White or Welch Indians but she is so small that I can learn Nothing from her. however I doubt not but I shall make out to finde the Nation If I can be allow.d to go on. I have been 160 Miles higher up then this place but was Drove back by A Nation at war with the *Mahas*. The Missouri is nearly as broad at this place as at the Mouth and the Current as Strong.

From this letter it appears that Mr Evens If he returnes will be able to give a sattisfactory account of the Missouri and make some discoveries important to society and advantagos to himself.

I left Whitesides on [the] 14<sup>th</sup> and arrived at Kahokia in the Evening passing a Small Village between Whitesides and Kahokia Call.d Prairie du Pont of about 40 Houses but If I was to Judge of the people by the Houses I should take them to be very Poor. You enter what is called the Missisipi Bottom some miles before you come to the Village of Prairie du Pont. Kahokia is situated with in a Mile and half of the Missisipi on a beautifull plain which Extends for many Miles back of the Town. it has been a place of wealth and did When under the English Government Command an Extensive Indian Trade. Its not the case now. since the Americans have held the Country it has been shamefully Neglected, and many of the best families have Cross.d the Missisipi and with them the Indian Trade. Kahokia Covers a large space of ground but is badly built and the Houses out of Repair. the Church which is a Frame building and not large is dedicated to the Holy Famely. there is not a building in the Place that can be call.d Elegant. there may be about 200 Houses in all, but not more then half of the[m] Inhabited. there is little or no Trade and the people are poor.

The Morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Henry and myself Cross.d the Missisipi on the Ice to St Louis and beeing told there was not any Tavern In the Town I left Jos Bell and the Mule at Kahokia nor was It with out great

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, I. 84.

Trouble that I procured quarters for myself and I beleave I should have been oblig'd to have returned to Kahokia the same Day had I not meet with a man by the name of Drake who spoke English and went with me to a Mon<sup>s</sup> L<sup>e</sup> Compt, who politely Took M<sup>r</sup> Henry and Myself into Hous. after changing our Dress we immediately paid our Respects to the Commandant Mon<sup>s</sup> Zeno Trudeau to whome we had letters. the Commandant received us with much politeness and promisd us all the assistance the Nature of our business Demanded. I had letters to a Merch<sup>t</sup> Mon<sup>s</sup> Charles Gratiot from whome I rcev d much attention. Mon<sup>s</sup> Gratiot spoke English well and was of great advantage to me as I could not speek French. St Louis is Prettily Situated, on a riseing spot of ground, and has a commanding prospect of the Missisipi, for some distance up and D<sup>own</sup> the River, and also the American Side. the Town of St Louis is better built then any Town on the Missisipi, and has a Number of wealthey Merch<sup>t</sup> and an Extensive Trade, from the Missouri Illinois and upper parts of the Missisipi. its fast improveing and will soon be a large place ; the Town at this time Contains about 200 Houses, most of which are of Stone, and some of them large but not Elegant. The Exports of St Louis is suppos'd to amount to 20,000 pounds p<sup>r</sup> annum. the Trade of this place must increase beeing with in 15 Miles of the Missouri and Thirty of the Illinois Rivers. the large Settlements makeing on the Missouri by the Americans will be of great advantage to St Louis the Wealth of which is so much greater then any Other Town on the Missisipi that it will take a long time to change the Trade even from the American side to any other place, and the great advantages held out by the Government of Spain will soon make the Settlements on the Missouri Formidable. Land have already been granted to 1000 Famelies Near four Hundred of which have arriv.d from different parts of the United States. Back of St. Louis is a small Fort Mounting four four pounders. its not of much strength, has a guard of Twenty men onely. the *Church* is a Frame building and make but an indifferent apperence has neither Steeple or Bell.

The Aborigines which Trade to St Louis are the *Kakapoos* Piankishas Piorias Sioux Shawanees (west of the Missisipe) and Osages on the Missouri. There is none of the above Indians that confine there Trade to St Louis Except the Osages. but St Louis gets the best part of all as well as many other Nations both on the Missisipi and Missouri which seldom or ever Visit the Town of St Louis, but have goods taken to them by Traders, employ.d by the Merch<sup>t</sup>s of St Louis, who make there returns in the Months of April and May. The Lands on the West side of the Missisipe are Not equal to those on the American side Excep on the Rivers Missouri which enters the Missisipe 15 Miles above St Louis and the *MaraMag*,<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Miles below, and the *Saline* Six Miles below St Genevieve and sixty below St Louis. the River Maramag is navigable for Bateaux 30 Miles at all times in the Year and in the Spring much higher its about a 100 yards wide at its mouth and Keeps Nearly Its width untill its

<sup>1</sup> Meramec.

forks after which it loosies its name and make what is Called the Grand River and the Mine Fork. between the Mine Fork and Grand River is the Lead Mines Know by the Name of the Mines of Briton which without Doubt are Richer then any in the Known World. these Mines are about 40 Miles from St Louis and 30 from St *Genevieve* and fifteen from the Navegation of the Maramag. on the Maramack is several Salt springs from which some salt is made. but the Saline will its most likely furnish this Country with salt, there beeing a great Number of Salt springs on its Banks, from which much Salt is now made and when the Works are Extended may furnish all the Upper Settlements on the Missisipi.

16<sup>th</sup> I waited on the Commandant and recev.d letters from him to the Commandnt of St Genevieve. leaveing St Louis I recross.d the Missisipi to Kahokia and on the 18 Arriv.d at the Town of Kaskaskia. From Kahokia to Kaskaskia is about 50 Miles and the best Body of Land in the world. the Bottom which Extends from Kahokia to the Mouth of the Kaskaskia is in Common five Miles in width and Except immediately on the Bank of the River and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a Mile out, is in order for any kinde of Farming use, beeing a Natural Meadow the Whole Way. between the Town of Kahokia and Kaskaskia you Pass the Village of Prairie *Du Rocher* which has about 60 Houses as also the *Little Village* which I am Told when under the English had 50 famelies and a good Church, but at this time there is but 3 famelies in the Town and the Church is distroy.d. the Church at Prairie *Du Rocher* is a frame Hous and not large. its much out of repare has a small Bell is Dedicated to St Joseph. about Thirty Miles from Kahokia Stands Fort Charter. Its a noble worke and the manner in which its Neglected proves how much this Country has been and still is neglected by Government. Fort Charter when built I am told was a Mile from the Missisipe, but the river has so chang.d its Channel that It has demolish.d the West side of the Fort intirely, and Its fell into the River. Each Angle of the Fort is 140 paces or steps. Its built of stone taken from the Missisipi Cliff, and where the Walls are unhurt, they are about 20 feet high. but the South Walls is much Injure.d, the East and North are more Perfect, the Ditch which surrounds the Fort is almost fill.d up. the Gate was Finish.d with hew.d Stone, but its much defaced. with in the Walls of the Fort is a range of stone Barracks, with in which is the Parade. at the South East Corner of the fort stands the magazine, which is also of stone and not in the least injure.d. The Arch appears to be as good as when finish.d. at the south west Corner stands the Guard Hous, a part of which is fallen with the West wall into the Missisipi, between the Guard Hous and the West range of Barrack, is a Deep well walled up with hew.d Stone and is as good as when made. the wood work of the Barracks is destroy.d Im told by fire. the last English Garrison had orders to demolish the Fort, and Turned There Cannon Against the Walls For some Days, however the peices were not sufficiently large to Effect the destruction, but the walls are much Injure.d. the French from the Spanish side of the Missisipe have Pillage.d the Windows and Doors of the Bar-

racks of many of the best hew.d Stone, and taken them up to St Louis for private use. Fort Charter is sade to be the best Work of the kinde in America. Its not easy to account why this Country has been Neglected by the Government of the United States, and when its considered that Its not onely a Frontier as to the Indians, but also as to Spain who are takeing Every step to make there Country Formidable in case of an attack, It is not unreasonable to suppose that the Executive of the United States, have not a Just Idia of the Importance of the Missisipe Country, or the Trade they are Daily looseing, and which will soon be so fix.d on the Spanish Shore as to be harde to with Draw. Some of the Standing Laws of Congress as they respect the Illinois Country are distressing and unjust in there Operation. the Law which make the Property of all the People forfeted to the United States who have left the Government of said States and do Not return with in five Years, is Cruel and severely unjust<sup>1</sup>. It ought to be remember.d that in 1778 Gen<sup>l</sup> Clark took the Illinois and left a Small Garrison at Kaskaskia onely,<sup>2</sup> who instead of protecting the People Pillage.d them at Will and when that Garrison was with Drawn which I beleave was in the Year 82 the whole settlement was unprotected and Notwithstanding Garrisons have been Established from Georgia North for the protection of much smaller settlements, Yet the Illinois have not recev.d the least assistance from Government from the Time of Clark untill the present Moment, Which Oblig.d many families to take Shelter under the Spanish Government, and because they did Not return and stand the scalping Knife they are to loos their property, for its to be Know[n] that all the Towns on the Missisipe have been at the mercy of the Indians untill the Treaty made by Gen<sup>l</sup>. Wayn. that Government Should take away the property of a people they could not or would not Protect is something new more Especially a Government like Ours.

Kaskaskia which is a place of the most Consequence of any on the American Side of the Missisipe and the County Town of Randolph, is Situated in about 38° 48 N. and Long 16° W. from Philad<sup>a</sup> on the Banks of the River Kaskaskia Two Miles from the Missisipe and five from the Mouth of the *Kaskaskia* in a level Champagne Country and is overlooked by a Hill on the opposite side of the Kaskaskia River which commands an Extensive prospect, as well of the Country below as of the Missisipe, and the Spanish Villages of St. Genevieve and New Bourbon, formeing all together a Landscape beautifull and pleasing.<sup>3</sup>

It is suppos.d to have been settled much about the same time as Philad<sup>a</sup> or at lest about a Century ago, the oldest Records in the office which is dated in the Year 1722 beeing marked with the Number 1015 showes that it was settled at an earlier period. It was formorly populous

<sup>1</sup> Act of March 3, 1791, sec. 2. See *United States Statutes at Large*, I. 221.

<sup>2</sup> *Per contra*, see *Winning of the West*, II. 88-89.

<sup>3</sup> Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History of America* (VI. 717) reproduces from Philip Pittman's *Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi* (London, 1770) "a plan of Cascaskies (Kaskaskia)."

and in a Flourishing Condition. at present no more then from 5 to 600 Souls are in the Town and its much diminished in Wealth as well as population. The many Changes that have taken place in the Government of this Country has greatly contributed to this decay, and more Especially the last when taken possession of by the Americans in the Year 1778 from which time to the Year 1790 it was in a manner left without any civil Authority,<sup>1</sup> which induced Numbers of the most Wealthy of the Inhabitants to remove to the Spanish Dominions. Its now the Capital of the County of Randolph having in the Year 1795 been detached from the County of St. Clair.

Kaskaskia River discharges itself into the Missisipi about five miles below the Town is about 250 Yards wide, has an easy current and may be navigated most Seasons of the Year with Boats from 10 to 30.000 lbs Burthen. the Lands on the Kaskaskia for 150 Miles up are equal to any in the United States formeing large and Extensive Meadows.

From the best Accounts that can be gather.d from the most antient of the Inhabitants it appears that the first Settlement of the Country by the French was at a place called La Riviere Despere (or Fathers or Priests River) which is situated on the now Spanish side of the Missisipi about 6 miles below where the Town of St. Louis now stands and about 50 miles above Kaskaskia. From the suppos.d Unhealthiness of that spot, they remov.d to a prairie on the Kaskaskia River about 25 Miles from its Mouth where the Tamaroica Indians then liv.d. Here they built a Church dedicated to St. Joseph, and Called the prairie after the name of the Saint, and resided there some time, untill some disorder prevailing among the Indians, which distroyed the Most of them in one Year, they came to Kaskaskia and built a Stone Church in the Centre of the Town Dedicated to the *Immaculate Conception* of the *Virgin Mary*. This has Since from the badness of the Work fallen Down and in its Room another large and Spacious Fram.d one has been Built, which is now in good Repair with a Spire and Bell. Before the Church is a large Square. the Jesuit's College which stood on the East side of the Town is now intirely distroy.d. the Houses are much reduced in number. its said when in its Glory to have contained 350 or 400 but at this time there is no more then 250 and many of them much out of Repair. the Trade of Kaskaskia was equal to all the Towns on the Missisipe, but like all the Towns on the American Side, its now poor and cannot be said to have any Trade.<sup>2</sup>

The Aborigines of the Country from which the Town and River of Kaskaskia took there Name, were formerly a Numerous people, but who

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Boyd's article, *The County of Illinois*, in this REVIEW, IV. 623-635.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Winning of the West*, III. 236-237, following a "Memorial of the French Inhabitants of Post Vincennes, Kaskaskia, La Prairie du Rocher, Cahokia, and Village of St. Philip to Congress," by Bartholomew Tardiveau, agent, in the State Department MSS. Roosevelt intimates that Tardiveau may have misrepresented the Creoles for the sake of what he considered his own advantage. See also the reference, p. 240, to the letter of Harmar to the Creoles.

now do not consist of more than 8 or 10 men at most.<sup>1</sup> The Wars they were engaged in with the Shakia<sup>2</sup> and Fox Indians who revenged the Death of the Famous Chief *Pontiac* treacherously Killed by an Illinois Indian in one of the Illinois Villages, together with there debauched manner of living, have in a manner Annihilated a Nation which at the first Settlement of the French consisted of about 3000 fighting men so that the Whole Nation at that time must have consisted of about 12,000 souls. The Neighbouring Tribes who called themselves Tamaroicas Mitchigamias, and Kahokias, are all extinct, or at Least, if they are living they have Joined other Nations, and the Piorias, the remaining Tribe of those Indians who were Called by the general Name of the Illinois Indians, now live on the Spanish side of the Missisipi, and do not consist of more then 40 men. They are as Equally lazy and Debauched as the Neighbouring Tribes, and will also with them soon be Extinct. The Chief or as he is called the King of the Kaskaskia Indians (Baptiste Ducoigne)<sup>3</sup> is a man of about 45 or 50 Years of Age, is said to be a man of good understanding, his dress is much like the French and he would pass for a Frenchman with strangers. Baptiste Ducoigne I am told receives from Government, 500 Dollars p<sup>r</sup> Annum Which is given to the Kaskaskian Nation,<sup>4</sup> but Ducoigne takes good care that the few Indians Yet remaining do not receive a Shilling, so that Government pays 500 Dollars for nothing, and Worse then Nothing, the Money Onely Answers to make an Indian Chief Drunk If he is so minded every Day in the Year. Was Government well informed of the reduced state of the Kaskaskia Indians, I think this money would be with held, for it Answers No good end what Ever. was the like sum expended in Extending a Post from the Falls of the Ohio to Post St. Vincennes, and from Vincennes to Kaskaskia, by which means the People would have an opportunity of hereing from the Government and the Government from them, such an Establishment would be productive of much good.

The Illinois Country is perhaps one of the most Beautifull and fertile in America and has the perculiar advantage of beeing interspersed with large plains or prairies and Wood Lands, where a Crop can be made the first year, without the trouble and Expence of falling the timber, which in every other part of America exhaust the strenght and purse of a New Settler. The Missisipi affords an Easy and certain Conveyance for his produce at all Seasons of the year, to New Orleans, which place or some other on the lower parts of the River bids fair to be one of the greatest marts in the World. Nature has undoubtedly intended this Country to be not onely the most agreeable and pleaseing in the World, but the Richest also. Not that I suppose there is many If any Silver Mines or Gold Dust. Nor do I consider either of them sufficient to make a Country Rich. but the Missisipe has Whats better, she has a Rich Landed Country. She

<sup>1</sup> See The George Catlin Indian Gallery, p. 886, *Smithsonian Report* for 1885, Part 2.

<sup>2</sup> Sacs.

<sup>3</sup> See his letter in this REVIEW, IV. 107, 108.—ED.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the treaty of Greenville, Art. 4.

has the Richest Lead Mines in the World, Not onely on the Maramack and its waters but also on the banks of the Missisipi about 700 Miles up from St Louis at a place call'd Prairie du Chien, or Dog Prairie, at which place or near it is also a (Copper) Mines, of Malleable Copper, the Veins of which are more extensive then any of the kinde here to fore found. she has Salt Springs on Each side of the River, and also Iron Ore in great quantities. These Minerals are more usefull in a Country then Gold or Silver. A Country thus Rich by Nature cannot be otherwise then Wealthy with a moderate shere of Industry. Its also to be remember'd that all the Wealth of this extensive World may be warfted to a Market at any time of the year Down the Missisipi at an easy expence.

the 19 I pass'd the Missisipi on Ice to St Genevieve, which is about 2 Miles from the bank of the River, which at this place is about A Mile over. I presented my letters from the Commandant of St Louis, to Mon<sup>o</sup> *Valle*, the Commandant of St. Genevieve, who recevd me with much Politeness, and promis'd me all the assistance in his power and on the 21 beeing furnished with a *Carry all* and Two Horses I left St Genevieve in Companey with a M<sup>r</sup> Jones of Kaskaskia<sup>1</sup> for the Mines of *Briton*, and on the 23 arriv'd at the Place, I found the Mines equal to my Expectation in Every respect. the weather turning warm we was oblig'd to make a quicker return then I wish'd. however I satisfied myself as to the Object I had in vew, and returned to St Genevieve, on the 26<sup>th</sup> the Mines of Briton, so called in Consequence of there beeing found by a man of that Name, are about 30 Miles from the Town of St Genevieve. there is a good waggon road to the place, and all the Lead that has been made at them is by makeing a fire over the Ore with large Loggs which Melts some of the Ore, by which means about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Lead is lost. Notwithstanding the Imperfect manner in which they Melt the Ore, Yet at the Mines of Briton last Summer was made 400 000<sup>lb</sup> Lead, and from an experiment I made the same quantity of Ore that was made use of, to make the 400 Thousand pounds would have made 1200,000<sup>lb</sup> of Lead, If I was rightly informed as to the quantity of Ore they Took to make a 1000<sup>lb</sup> Lead in the Logg fires. the Ore at the Mines of Briton Covers about 40 Acres of Ground and is found with in three feet of the surface of the *Earth* in great Plenty and better quality then any I have ever seen either from the Mines in England or America.

The Town of St Genevieve is about 2 Miles from the Missisipe on the high land from which You have a Commanding Vew of the Country and River. the old Town Stood immediately on the bank of the River

<sup>1</sup> John Rice Jones. He was Commissary-General of the garrison at Vincennes in 1786-1787 and played a prominent part in the early history of Indiana, and later of Missouri, where he became associated with Austin in the mining business. His son John, or John Rice, Jones, was the first Postmaster-General of the Republic of Texas. See, in Vol. IV. of the Chicago Historical Society's Collections, *John Rice Jones: a Brief Sketch of the Life and Public Career of the First Practising Lawyer of Illinois*, by W. A. Burt Jones, and a note on John Rice Jones, *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, II. 1. The title of the sketch referred to speaks for itself as to the claim of its author.

in an Extensive plain but it beeing Some times over-flow.d by the Missisipe and many of the Houses washed into the River by the falling of the Bank, It was thought adviseable to remove the Town to the hights. the Place is small not over 100 Houses, but has more Inhabitents then Kaskaskia and the Houses are in Better repare, and the Citizens are more Wea[l] they. It has some Indian Trade, but what has made the Town of St Genevieve is the Lead and Salt that is made Near the place, the whole of which is brought to Town for Sale, and from thence Ship.d up and Down the River Missisipe as well as Up the Ohio to Cumberland and Kentuckey, and when the Lead Mines are properly worked, and the Salt Springs advantageously manag.d, St Genevieve will be a place of as Much Wealth as any on the Missisipe. One Mile from St Genevieve Down the River is a Small Village Called New Bourbon of about 20 Houses. at this place, I was Introduced to The *Chevaleer Pierre Charles De Hault De Lassus*, A French Nobleman Formerly of the Council of the late King of France.<sup>1</sup> Chevalier De Lassus Told me he had an Estate in France of 30 thousand *Crowns*, but was oblig.d to make his Escape to America and leave all, Which has since been taken by the present government. *Madame De Lassus* had an Estate of half that sum p' annum So that the Yearly Income of the famely besides the sumes allow.d him by the King, Amounted to 45 Thousand *Crowns* p'Annum. *Madame De Lassus* did not appear to support the Change of Situation so well as the *Chevalier*. I was examining a larg Piece of painting, which was in *Madame De Lassus* Bed Chamber, representing a grand Festival given by the Citizens of *Paras* to the Queen, on the birth of the Dauphin and a *Parade* of all the *Nobles* on the same Occation. She came to me and puting her finger on the *Picture* pointing out a Coach There said she, was I on that Happy Day. My situation is now strangly Chang.d after Takeing leave of Chevalier De Lassus I recros.d the River To Kas-

<sup>1</sup> "Pierre Charles Dehault Delassus et de Deluziere, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of St. Michael, with his wife, Madame Domitille Josepha Dumont Danzin de Beaufort, of the ancient nobility of the town of Bouchaine, in Hainault, French Flanders, northern part of France, came away from their native place, where their ancestors had lived from time immemorial, during the early period of the French Revolution. They arrived at New Orleans about the year 1794 and after a time they came up to Ste. Genevieve and established and located themselves at New Bourbon, contiguous to Ste. Genevieve. Their children were at the time Chas. Dehault Delassus, a Colonel in the service of Spain, their eldest son; another James M. E. Delassus, already mentioned in these annals, and a third, Camillus Delassus, then a young man. If there were other sons or daughters their names are not found in our St. Louis archives. Governor Trudeau made them a concession of land for the support of the family, and the old gentleman was appointed civil magistrate of the place, which position he filled until the transfer of the country to the United States in 1804." Billon, *Annals of St. Louis in its Early Days under the French and Spanish Dominations*.

The above extract was furnished by Dr. Joseph Bauer, of New Orleans. The same volume states further that Colonel Charles Delassus was transferred to Louisiana in 1794, "so that he might be useful to his father's family and continue in the Spanish service." In 1799 he became Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Upper Louisiana. He continued in the service in different capacities until 1810, when he resigned. He died in New Orleans in 1842.

kaskia and on the 8. of Feb<sup>y</sup>, Took my leave of the good people of Kaskaskia, takeing a Frenchman by the Name of *Degar* as a guide to *Fort Massac* setting my face homwards. after rafting and Swimming several river, I arriv.d at the Ohio about 18. Miles above Fort Massac where A Number of Frenchman was Camp.d for hunting. With much Trouble and Danger I swam my Horses over the Ohio gitting an Other Frenchman as a Guide. I on the 17 Day of Feb<sup>y</sup> arriv.d at the Town of Nashville on Cumberland River in the State of Tennessee. At this place I rested my Self and Horses Six Days and then in Company with fourteen Others some Woman and some Men Took the Wilderness for Knox Ville and without Meeting any thing uncommon arriv.d at Knox Ville on the 4 Day of March where I stad.d but a Night, and on the 9 Day of the Month arriv.d at the Villiage of Austin Ville after an Absence of 3 Months and Nine Days, Makeing a Journey of upwards of Two Thousand Miles 960 of which was A Wilderness and the Snow most of the way Two feet Deep. Five Days of the time I was without provisions. I have made these few observations of my Journey to the Mississipi for the Use of my son, should he live to my Age, Not Doubting but by that time the Country I have pass.d in a state of Nature will be overspread with Towns and Villages, for it is Not possible a Country which has with in its self everything to make its settlers Rich and Happy can remain Unnotice.d by the American people.

M AUSTIN

AUSTIN VILLE.— }  
March. 25 1797 }